



Guy's King's College & St Thomas' Hospitals
Rugby Football Club - Est. 1843

Committee Meeting
Renal Admin Dept, Guy's Hospital
Tuesday 8th December 2009, 6.30pm
MINUTES

Presiding:

Mr Geoff Koffman

Present:

Mr. Charles West
Mr. Fergus Devenport
Mr. Alex Underwood
Mr. Toby Welch
Mr. Freddie Hartley

1.) Apologies

Mr Duncan Steele
Miss Sinead Barry

2.) Minutes dated 01/09/09 that should have been dated 05/11/09...

Minutes deemed "relatively uncontentious".

3.) Matters Arising

1st XV Kit

The new 1st XV shirts are excellent. However, our esteemed skipper is apparently underwhelmed with the new shorts. Rumours persist that this is because they are not of a generous enough cut for his ample behind. It was agreed that with our next order from Samuri (the supplier) we should insist upon some upgraded shorts (free of charge) as they delivered the wrong type this time round. A short term fix may be to get Mr. Steele his own pair of special, skipper's shorts. With his name on. Then maybe he'll calm down. This is an accurate record of the meeting. I'm not being facetious.

Sponsorship

Gabriel have informed us that they are unwilling to continue sponsoring GHRFC beyond this season, which is a great shame. Mr. Koffman will be inviting our man at Gabriel to watch this weekend's match in the hope that his logo on the new kit may persuade him to reconsider.

Rearranged Fixtures and Early Kick-Off's for 2nd XV.

Clive Putner of the Met League has informed Mr. Underwood that we can rearrange matches/kick off early until our heart's content.

4.) November Results

After 3 consecutive wins, the 1st VX sit in 3rd place in Kent 1. Having played every team in the league, Mr. West opined that we can realistically push for promotion. He also commented that some core freshers are now playing both Wednesday and Saturday rugby, but that he will continue to cajole others to follow suit.

With no 2nd XV rep at the meeting, the only thing I can report is that they “are not going too badly” (Thanks for that, Mr. Devenport). It was noted that it has been slightly less of a struggle to get a team out, which is good to hear.

5.) Treasurer's Report

Grant Account: £1018
Subs Account: £559

Mr. Devenport spoke eloquently (and at some length) about the finer points of checking who has paid subs on K**g's online sub-payment checker system, and eventually concluded that only 20 club members have paid. He will be publishing a list of good eggs on the website and Mr. Koffman will be in touch with the bad; a bold and unprecedented move that may well have been driven by the need to buy one *very* nice pair of shorts.

6.) KCLSU/Clubhouse

Mr Koffman had a meeting with K**ng's and reported the following:

- As with all teams that are not 'all student', we will from next season have to start paying for

pitches on a Saturday.

- We will have a discount of 50%, 40% and 30% in charges for the next 3 seasons respectively before paying full whack (£100 per pitch, per match)
- With enough notice, they will guarantee us two pitches at HOP up to 6 times a season.
- No guarantee for a clubhouse at HOP at all. They have plans for a £3 million clubhouse, but no money to build one. This won't change.

The committee's response to K**g's position is as follows:

- Beccehamians charged us £70 per pitch last season which included dinner. And a clubhouse. With a lovely bar. Is £100 a pitch value for money, when all you get is a porta-cabin? Probably not.
- John Baigan (HOP Ground Manager) has refused requests from Mr. Underwood for two pitches on some match days, even with plenty of notice. Mr. Koffman will write to K**g's asking for an explanation while insisting Mr. Baigan plays ball.
- The situation at HOP is unacceptable. No clubhouse, no bar, waterlogged pitches from astro-turf run-off, tellings off for “running on pitches” in training, etc, etc, ad nauseum.

So we have two options as a club:

- 1.) Look for a new home.
- 2.) Ask K**g's to downscale clubhouse plans to a more affordable level and then embark on an ambitious fund-raising drive to help pay for it.

Either way, it was agreed that we need to find a “club pub” in the vicinity that would be prepared to house us as soon as possible for our post match meals and the team bonding that makes Saturday rugby so enjoyable. Mr Devenport will talk to the Women's XV Social Sec. as apparently they have a similar arrangement with a public house nearby. Your Hon. Sec. will also attempt to go for a long walk around the area on a Sunday to find some alternatives. Preferably with a darts board.

This is obviously a very serious issue and should be raised in front of the whole club at a time when the committee have carefully explored each avenue. We're all going to have to “man-up” in some way. Duncan's arse (our President mused) provides ample space for prime advertising, for example.

Let it also be noted that GHRFC have many notable alumni and VP's who will be even less inclined to give money to their alma mater while it behaves like this. But they may be more inclined to help the club...

7.) Disciplinary Issues

After a recent 1st XV fixture, Coachy Steve became agitated with a referee and referee's assessor after a game and in private.

The London Society of Referees were not amused with his behaviour and threatened to cut off our supply of referees. However, a diplomatic letter from our President to the Society was received

gratefully. The committee agreed that a written warning will be sent to Coachy Steve regarding his behaviour and a letter of apology from the club will be sent to the referee's assessor (who bore the brunt of Steve's displeasure). The Society have said that this will draw a line under the matter.

Let it be noted that no Guy's player was alleged to have behaved in any way inappropriately.

8.) Summer Ball/Christmas Dinner Report.

It was agreed that Mr. Smith will enquire about using the Griffin as a venue for our annual shindig and will talk to the Hockey Boys (who celebrate there) about prices, pros and cons. He will report back at the next meeting.

The Christmas Dinner Report consisted of a video on a mobile phone that showed a woman doing questionable things to a fresher with a golf club, some whipped cream, and not very much in the way of clothing. Our President was heard to exclaim "Fucking Hell! She really hit it!" (To clarify, he was viewing the video...) Many congratulations to Mr. Smith for a sterling job with the organisation of this highly successful event.

9.) AOB

UH Semi Final Date

The date for the UH Semi Finals is now SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY at Chislehurst, The online fixture list will be updated, but please make a note of this in your diaries.

New Coach

As mentioned in the last committee meeting, Coachy Steve has announced he will retire at the end of this season. Mr. Devenport will investigate grant money available for new coaches to allow the club to advertise the post before the New Year.

Kent Rugby Training days

Kent Rugby offer club committee members training days to learn how to maximise lottery funding etc. It was felt that at least one of us should go:

"Kent Club Support Day ('This is Rugby' Launch event) 18th January at Blackheath's Well Hall Ground

Club officers, leaders and management from all sections of clubs are invited to this support event, to be held on Monday 18th January 2010 at Blackheath's Well Hall ground from 2.00 pm – 9.00 pm. The event will consist of 'drop-in' workshops, short presentations and one-to-one contact meetings covering a wide range of topics provided and supported by the RFU/Kent RFU. The programme will run throughout the time of the event. The event will include the launch of the RFU's 'This is Rugby' core values initiative.

Specialists in attendance will be able to deal with for example; Coaching; Refereeing; Volunteering; Seal of Approval; Funding; Facilities; Club Management; RugbyFirst.

Please register attendance at the Kent office office@kentrugby.org by giving name, club, role and

contact telephone number.”

I am happy to attend, but could do with some moral support...

10.) Next Meeting

Tuesday 5th January 2010, 6.30pm. Renal Dept, 5th Floor, Guy's Tower.